

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 OES-06 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
IO-13 SIG-02 INT-05 SMI-01 L-03 CEQ-01 EPA-04 AGRE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIE-00 EB-08
SP-02 DODE-00 PM-04 INRE-00 SSO-00 /109 R

DRAFTED BY COMMERCE/NOAA:PFOX
APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN:DRKING
OES/ENP/EN:CHSANDERS
EA/ANP:TWAJDA;ARA/ECA:TSHUGART
EUR/CAN:KJONIEZ;EUR/NE:JSHUMATE
EUR/SOV:WVEALE;AF/S:TDOUBLEDAY
EUR/NE:DDONCHI;CSCHALLER
EUR/WE:JVSMITH;EA/J:SECTON
ARA/MEX:GFALK;EA/ANP:HNELSON
ARA/LA/PAN:ENADEAU

-----281644Z 089656 /45

O R 281529Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IWC-1, SENV

SUBJECT: LISTING OF FIN AND SEI WHALES ON APPENDICES OF

THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON TRADE IN ENDANGERED
SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

REFERENCE: STATE 278103

1. REQUEST ACTION ADDRESSEES CONTACT HOST COUNTRY COMMISSIONER TO INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (IWC) TO EXPLAIN REASONING (BELOW) BEHIND SUBJECT LISTING. IN CASE OF THOSE IWC MEMBER COUNTRIES WHICH ARE ALSO PARTIES TO ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION (I.E., AUSTRALIA, BRAZIL, CANADA, UK, USSR, SOUTH AFRICA, NORWAY, IN ADDITION TO U.S REQUEST RESPECTIVE POSTS URGE HOST GOVERNMENT ACCEPTANCE OF SUBJECT LISTING AS ADOPTED AT FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION HELD IN BERN ON NOVEMBER 2-6, 1976 (REFTEL).

2. EMBASSY OFFICER MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING:

A. UNANIMOUS DECISION ON FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES,

BASED ON A U.S. PROPOSAL, WAS:

(1) TO LIST ON APPENDIX I (ENDANGERED) OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION ALL STOCKS OF FIN WHALES AND SEI WHALES WHICH ARE LISTED AS "PROTECTION STOCKS" BY THE IWC SCHEDULE.

(2) TO LIST ALL OTHER STOCKS OF BOTH SPECIES ON APPENDIX II (POTENTIALLY THREATENED) OF THE ENDANGERED UNCLASSIFIED

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SPECIES CONVENTION.

B. RATIONALE FOR THE US PROPOSAL AND SUBSEQUENT CONFERENCE DECISION WAS AS FOLLOWS:

(1) STOCKS LISTED BY IWC AS "PROTECTION STOCKS" CANNOT BE HARVESTED BY ANY IWC MEMBER NATION; HOWEVER, THERE ARE CERTAIN NON-MEMBER NATIONS WHICH CONTINUE TO TAKE THESE WHALES.

(2) SINCE ANY HARVESTING OF THESE "PROTECTION STOCK" WHALES MEANS IT WILL TAKE THEM LONGER TO RECOVER TO ACCEPTABLE LEVELS, THE IWC PASSED AND SENT RESOLUTIONS TO THE NATIONS INVOLVED REQUESTING THAT THEY ABIDE BY IWC DECISIONS, AT LEAST, AND PREFERABLY THAT THEY BECOME MEMBERS OF IWC.

(3) EFFORTS TO DATE ALONG THESE LINES BY IWC HAVE RESULTED IN ONLY ONE NON-IWC WHALING NATION BECOMING A

MEMBER (BRAZIL). THEREFORE, THE USG PROPOSED THE SUBJECT LISTING AS ANOTHER MEANS OF DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM. IF IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TRADE INTERNATIONALLY IN WHALE PRODUCTS, A MAJOR REASON FOR TAKING THE WHALES WILL BE ELIMINATED. WITH REDUCTION IN WHALE QUOTAS, CERTAIN NATIONS MAY SEEK WHALE PRODUCTS WORLDWIDE, THEREBY EXPANDING THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET FOR WHALE PRODUCTS.

(4) THE USG DOES NOT EXPECT THE SUBJECT LISTING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM, BUT IT WILL PROVIDE FOR AN IMPROVEMENT AND WILL HAVE AN EVEN GREATER IMPACT WHEN THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES PARTY TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION IS INCREASED.

3. FYI - USG WAS APPROACHED WEEK OF JANUARY 3 BY AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WITH GOA REQUEST THAT U.S. OPPOSE OR PLACE RESERVATION ON LISTING OF THESE TWO
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SPECIES ON APPENDICES. DEADLINE FOR PLACING OBJECTIONS IS FEBRUARY 4, 1977. THE GOA RAISED TWO POINTS:

(A) IS IT NECESSARILY TRUE THAT "PROTECTION STOCKS" ARE ALWAYS ENDANGERED?

(B) IT IS LIKELY THAT THE IWC SCHEDULE AND THE APPENDICES TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION WILL NOT BE CONSISTENT BECAUSE IWC MEETS EVERY YEAR AND THE ENDANGERED SPECIES, EVERY TWO YEARS. END FYI.

4. IF NECESSARY TO RESPOND TO ABOVE POINTS MADE TO US BY GOA, RESPONSE SHOULD BE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINE:

(A) THE USG CONSIDERS ALL LARGE WHALES, EXCEPT BRYDES', TO BE ENDANGERED. IN AS MUCH AS IWC HAS RECOGNIZED THAT THEY NEED FULL PROTECTION, IT IS IN OUR VIEW DESIRABLE TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO ACCOMPLISH SUCH PROTECTION, INCLUDING PLACING THEM ON THE APPENDICES.

(B) THE PROBLEM OF INCONSISTENT LISTS DOES NOT EXIST AT PRESENT BECAUSE MOST OF THE "PROTECTION STOCKS" ARE ESTIMATED TO BE 50 TO 80 PERCENT BELOW THE LEVEL OF MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE YIELD (MSY). SINCE NONE OF THESE STOCKS OF WHALES CAN BE HARVESTED AGAIN UNTIL IT REGAINS A LEVEL OF 10 PERCENT BELOW MSY, CHANGES IN THE IWC LISTING FOR THESE WHALES ARE UNLIKELY TO OCCUR FOR MANY YEARS. FINALLY, THE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION HAS PROVISIONS FOR AMENDMENTS BY MAIL DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN CONFERENCES OF THE PARTIES.

5. FOR CANBERRA: REPLY TO CANBERRA 533 IS IN PREPARATION
AND WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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From: STATE
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: PORG, SENV
To: CANBERRA BRASILIA MULTIPLE
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vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7b8130dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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